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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/644,282

08/20/2003

Judson E. Veazey

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EXAMINER

WILLIAMS, HOWARD L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2819

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/644,282

Applicant(s)

VEAZEY, JUDSON E.

Examiner

Howard L. Williams

Art Unit

2819

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 082003.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

The examiner acknowledges receipt of the Information Disclosure Statement filed 20 August 2003. An initialed copy of the citation form should accompany this letter.

Claims 5 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 5 the two occurrences of the term "the memory controller" lack antecedent. In claim 7 the two occurrences of "the microcontroller" lack antecedent. It seems that the two terms noted above are being used interchangeably in the various claims; however, consistency in any particular chain of claim dependency should be observed.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Admitted Prior Art Figure 1 in view of Dye et al. (US 6,208,273).

Admitted Prior Art Figure 1 shows a computer system as claimed with the exception of a compression/decompression engine. Dye et al. discloses parallel compression-decompression function to be implemented with a compression-decompression engine in various configurations of a computer system. In figures 6, 7, and 8, Dye et al. illustrates a configuration a memory controller (220; fig. 6) with the "Memory F/X block". The memory controller is shown in more detail in figure 7 as including parallel compression-decompression unit 251 which in turn is illustrated in more detail in figure 8. In figure 8, one observes that memory


controller interfaces with "switch logic" (261) including a crossbar switch (502). Dye et al. also discloses inclusion of the parallel compression/decompression feature in various other embodiments such as a peripheral, CPU, network device, router, switch, bridge, network interface device, or hub. (See column 3, lines 34-44; col 15 line 30-col. 17 line 24). Each of these implementations is intended to take advantage of the well recognized benefits of compression such reduction of required storage space, improved transfer speed, or reduced bandwidth requirements.

It would have been obvious to combine the compression/decompression technology taught by Dye et al. in the system of admitted Prior Art figure 1 to obtain the benefits of compression as taught by Dye et al.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Byrn et al. (US 5,737,638) discloses a multiprocessor system with compression/decompression capability built in to memory interface, parallel data service. Brown et al (US 5,710,909) discloses a memory interface with compression capability included in a multiprocessor system architecture. Richter et al. (US 20020105972 A1) discloses a network architecture with compression/decompression features built-in to an interface 200 (275; fig. 2; paragraph 153).

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Howard L. Williams at telephone number 571-272-1815.

9/1/04


Howard L. Williams
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2819